

An. 1676 eating them, for some Men have been poisoned with them.

Divers Persons are of Opinion that these Creatures are poysonous in some Places only, and that but at some Times of the Year. I know that in many Parts of the *West-Indies*, some have been injured by eating them, and that at different Seasons of the Year; therefore Seamen commonly taste the Liver before they venture any further; and if that has a biting Taste like Pepper, they esteem the Fish unwholsome, but if not, they eat it: and yet I have found even this Rule fail too. I judge the Head and the Parts near it, to be chiefly venomous.

Gar-fish are round, but neither so big nor long as the former; but what is more peculiar, they have long bony Snouts, like the Sword-fish, only as the Sword-fish's Snout is flat, and indented like a Saw on each side; so on the contrary these have their Snouts like a Spear, round, smooth and sharp at the end, and about a Foot long. These are a sort of floaty or flying Fish: for they skip along a Foot or two above the Water, for the length of twenty or thirty Yards: then they just touch the Edge of the Water, and spring forward so much farther, and then touch the Water, and spring forward again, a great many times before they cease. They dart themselves with such a Force that they strike their Snout through the sides of a Cotton-Tree Canoa; and we often fear that they will strike quite through our very Bodies. — They are extraordinary sweet Fish.

Spanish Mackril are in Shape and Colour like our Mackril, but larger: They are three Foot or three and half long, and nine or ten Inches about, and they also are generally esteemed very excellent Fish.

The Ray is a flat Fish, like Skate, and I have seen ^{an. 1676.} three sorts of them; viz. the Stingray, the Raspray and the Whipay. The Stingray and Raspray are much alike in shape; but the former has three or four strong sharp Prickles, near two Inches long, at the Root of its Tail, which are said to be very venomous, but the rest of his Skin is smooth. The Raspray has a rough knotty Skin wherewith Rasps are made: the Skins of the largest are so rough, that the *Spaniards* in some Places grate their Cassavy with them, which is a Root very common all over the *West-Indies*; and of which the *Spaniards* and *English* frequently make their Bread; but the fairest Skins are used to cover Surgeons Instrument Cases, and other such fine Things; but of late they are counterfeited. I have been told that in *Turkey* Asses Skins are stamped with small hard Seeds, which gives them Impressions like Raspray.

The Whipay differs from the other two sorts, having a small, but longer Tail, and ending with a Knob, shaped like a Harpoon. All these three sorts are much about a Foot and half broad. There is yet another sort of these flat Fish of the Whipay kind, but of a prodigious bigness; viz. three or four Yards square, and their Tails as long: these we call Sea-Devils; they are very strong Fish, and are sometimes Gamesom; but they make an odd Figure when they leap out of the Water, tumbling over and over.

Neither are Turtle and Manatee wanting in this Lagoon. Here are some Hawks-bill-Turtle, but the green Turtle is most plentiful. They are of a middle size; yet here was once a very large one taken, as I have mentioned in my *Voyages round the World*.

Here are abundance of Manatee, which are both large and sweet.

Alligators

An. 1676. Alligators are also in great numbers in all the Creeks, Rivers and Lagunes in the Bay of *Campeachy*; and I think that no part of the Universe is better stock'd with them.

The Alligator is a Creature so well known every where, that I should not describe it, were it not to give an Account of the difference between it and the Crocodile; for they resemble each other so nearly in their shape and bulk, as also in their Natures, that they are generally mistaken for the same Species; only the one supposed to be the Male, the other the Female: Whether they are so or not, the World may judge by the following Observations. As to their Bulk and length, I never saw any so large as some I have heard and read of; but according to my best Judgment, though I have seen Thousands, I never met with any above sixteen or seventeen Foot long, and as thick as a large Colt. He is shaped like a Lizard, of a dark brown Colour, with a large Head and very long Jaws, with great strong Teeth, especially two of a remarkable Length, that grow out of, and at the very end of the under Jaw in the smallest part, on each side one; there are two holes in the upper Jaw to receive these, otherways he could not shut his Mouth. It has 4 short Legs and Broad Claws, with a long Tail. The Head, Back and Tail is fenced with pretty hard Scales, joyned together with a very thick tough Skin: Over its Eyes there are two hard scaly Knobs, as big as a Mans Fist, and from the Head to the Tail, along the Ridge of his Back 'tis full of such knotty hard Scales, not like Fish-Scales, which are loose, but so united to the Skin, that it is all one with it, and can't be taken asunder, but with a sharp Knife. From the Ridge of the Back down on the Ribs towards the Belly, (which is of a dusky yellow colour like a Frog) there are many of these Scales, but not so substantial nor so thick placed as the other.

These

These Scales are no hindrance to him in turning ; *An. 1676*
for he will turn very quick, considering his length. 
When he goes on Land his Tail drags on the
Ground.

The Flesh smells very strong of Musk ; especially
four Kernels or Cods that are always found about
them, two of which grow in the Groin, near each
Thigh ; the other two at the Breast, one under each
Fore-leg, and about the bigness of a Pullets Egg ;
therefore when we kill an Alligator, we take out
these, and having dried them wear them in our
Hats for a perfume. The Flesh is seldom eaten
but in case of Necessity, because of its strong
scent.

Now the Crocodile hath none of these Kernels,
neither doth his Flesh taste at all Musky, therefore
esteemed better Food. He is of a yellow Colour,
neither hath he such long Teeth in his under Jaw.
The Crocodile's Legs also are longer, and when it
runs on Land, it bears its Tail above the Ground, and
turns up the tip of it in a round Bow, and the Knots
on the Back are much thicker, higher and firmer
than those of the Alligator ; and differ also as to
the Places where they are found. For in some Parts,
as here in the Bay of *Campeachy*, are abundance of
Alligators, where yet I never saw nor heard of any
Crocodiles. At the Isle *Grand Caymanes*, there are
Crocodiles, but no Alligators. At *Pines by Cuba*,
there are abundance of Crocodiles, but I cannot say
there are no Alligators, tho' I never saw any there.
Both Kinds are called *Caymanes* by the *Spaniards* ;
therefore probably they may reckon them for the
same. And I know of no other difference, for they
both lay Eggs alike, which are not distinguishable to
the Eye : They are as big as a Goose-Egg, but much
longer, and good Meat ; yet the Alligators Eggs taste
very Musky : They prey both alike in either Element,
for

An. 1676. for they love Flesh as well as Fish, and will live in either fresh. or salt Water. Beside these Creatures, I know none that can live any where, or upon any sort of Food, like them. 'Tis reported, that they love Dog's-Flesh better than any other Flesh whatsoever. This I have seen with my own Eyes, that our Dogs were so much afraid of them, that they would not very willingly drink at any great River or Creek where those Creatures might lurk and hide themselves, unless they were (through Necessity) constrained to it; and then they would stand five or six Foot from the brink of the Creek or River, and bark a considerable time before they would Adventure nearer; and then even at the sight of their own Shadows in the Water, they would again retire to the Place from whence they came, and bark vehemently a long time; so that in the dry Season, when there was no fresh Water but in Ponds and Creeks, we used to fetch it our-selves and give it our Dogs; and many times in our Hunting, when we came to a large Creek that we were to pass through, our Dogs would not follow us; so that we often took them in our Arms, and carried them over.

Besides the fore-mentioned difference between the Alligator and Crocodile; the latter is accounted more fierce and daring than the Alligator: Therefore when we go to the Isles of *Pines* or *Grand Caymanes* to hunt, we are often molested by them, especially in the Night. But in the Bay of *Campeachy*, where there are only Alligators, I did never know any Mischief done by them, except by accident Men run themselves into their Jaws. I remember one Instance of this Nature, which is as follows.

In the very height of the dry time seven or eight *An. 1676*
Men (*English* and *Irish*) went to a place called *Pies Pond*, on *Beef-Island*, to hunt. This Pond was never dry, so that the Cattle drew hither in swarms, but after two or three days Hunting they were shy, and would not come to the Pond till Night, and then if an Army of Men had lain to oppose them, they would not have been debarr'd of Water. The Hunters knowing their Custom, lay still all Day, and in the Night visited this Pond, and killed as many Beefs as they could. This Trade they had driven a Week, and made great profit. At length an *Irish*-man going to the Pond in the Night, stumbled over an Alligator that lay in the Path: The Alligator seized him by the Knee; at which the Man cries out, *Help! help!* His Consorts not knowing what the matter was, ran all away from their Huts, supposing that he was fallen into the Clutches of some *Spaniards*, of whom they were afraid every dry Season. But poor *Daniel* not finding any Assistance, waited till the Beast opened his Jaw to take better hold; because it is usual for the Alligator to do so; and then snatch'd away his Knee, and flipt the But-end of his Gun in the room of it, which the Alligator griped so hard, that he pull'd it out of his Hand and so went away. The Man being near a small Tree climb'd up out of his reach; and then cried out to his Consorts to come and assist him; who being still within Call, and watching to hear the Issue of the Alarm, made haste to him with Fire-brands in their Hands, and brought him away in their Arms to his Hut; for he was in a deplorable Condition, and not able to stand on his Feet, his Knee was so torn with the Alligator's Teeth.

His Gun was found the next Day ten or twelve Paces from the place where he was seized, with

An. 1676. two large Holes made in the But-end of it, one on each side, near an Inch deep; for I saw the Gun afterwards. This spoiled their sport for a time, they being forced to carry the Man to the Island *Trist*, where there Ships were, which was six or seven Leagues distant.

This *Irish-Man* went afterwards to *New-England* to be cured, in a Ship belonging to *Boston*, and nine or ten Months after returned to the Bay again, being recovered of his Wound, but went limping ever after.

This was all the mischief that ever I heard was done in the Bay of *Campeachy*, by the Creatures call'd *Alligators*.



C H A P. II.

Logwood Mens way of Living. Their Hunting for Beefs in Canoas. Alligators. The Author's settling with Logwood-Men. He is lost in Hunting. Captain Hall and his Mens disaster. The way of preserving Bullocks Hides. Two hairy Worms growing in the Author's Leg. Dangerous Leg-worms in the West-Indies. The Author strangely cured of one. A violent Storm. A Description of Beef-Island: its Fruits and Animals. The Spaniards way of hocking Cattle. Their care of preserving their Cattle. The wasteful destruction made of them by the English and French Privateers. The Author's narrow Escape from an Alligator.

THE Logwood-Cutters (as I said before) inhabit the Creeks of the East and West Lagunes, in small Companies, building their Huts close by the Creeks sides for the benefit of the Sea-Breezes, as near the Logwood Groves as they can, removing often to be near their Business: yet when they are settled in a good open Place, they chuse rather to go half a Mile in their Canoas to work, than lose that convenience. Tho' they build their Huts but slightly, yet they take care to thatch them very well with Palm or Palmeto Leaves, to prevent the Rains, which are there very violent, from soaking in.

For

Am. 1676. For their Bedding they raise a Barbecue, or wooden Frame 3 Foot and a half above Ground on one side of the House; and stick up four Stakes, at each corner one, to fasten their Pavilions; out of which here is no sleeping for Moskitoes.

Another Frame they raise covered with Earth for a Hearth to dress their Victuals: and a third to sit at when they eat it.

During the wet Season, the Land where the Logwood grows is so overflowed, that they step from their Beds into the Water perhaps two Foot deep, and continue standing in the wet all Day, till they go to bed again; but nevertheless account it the best Season in the Year for doing a good Day's Labour in.

Some fell the Trees, others saw and cut them into convenient Logs, and one chips off the Sap, and he is commonly a principal Man; and when a Tree is so thick, that after it has lodg'd, it remains still too great a Burthen for one Man, we blow it up with Gun-powder.

The Logwood-Cutters are generally sturdy strong Fellows, and will carry Burthens of three or four hundred Weight; but every Man is left to his choice to carry what he pleaseth, and commonly they agree very well about it: For they are contented to labour very hard.

But when Ships come from *Jamaica* with Rum and Sugar, they are too apt to mispend both their Time and Money. If the Commanders of these Ships are Free, and treat all that come the first Day with Punch, they will be much respected, and every Man will pay honestly for what he drinks afterwards; but if he be niggardly, they will pay him with their worst Wood, and commonly they have a stock of such laid by for that purpose; nay, they will cheat them with hollow Wood filled with dirt in the middle and both ends plugg'd up with

with a piece of the same drove in hard, and then sawed off so neatly, that it's hard to find out the Deceit; but if any Man come to purchase with Bills payable at *Jamaica*, they will be sure to give him the best Wood.

In some places, especially in the West Creek of the West Lagune, they go a Hunting every *Saturday* to provide themselves with Beef for the Week following.

The Cattle in this Country are large and fat in *February, March* and *April*: At other times of the Year they are fleshy, but not fat, yet sweet enough. When they have kill'd a Beef, they cut it into four Quarters, and taking out all the Bones, each Man makes a hole in the middle of his Quarter, just big enough for his Head to go thro', then puts it on like a Frock, and trudgeth home; and if he chances to tire, he cuts off some of it, and flings it away.

It is a Diversion pleasant enough, though not without some danger, to hunt in a Canoa; for then the Cattle having no other feeding Places than the Sides of the Savannahs, which are somewhat higher Ground than the middle, they are forced sometimes to swim; so that we may easily come to shoot them, when they are thus in the Water.

The Beast, when she is so hard pursued that she cannot escape, turns about and comes full tilt at the Canoa, and striking her Head against the Prow, drives her back twenty or thirty Paces; then she scampers away again: But if she has received a Wound, she commonly pursue us till she is knock'd down. Our chiefest Care is to keep the Head of the Canoa towards her; for if she should strike against the Broad-side, it would endanger over-setting it, and consequently wetting our Arms and Amunition. Besides, the Savannahs at this time swarm with Alligators, and therefore are the more dangerous on that account.

2a. 1676. These Creatures in the wet Season forsake the Rivers, and inhabit the Drowned-Savannahs to meet with Purchase, and no Flesh comes amiss to them, whether alive or dead. Their chief Subsistence then is on young Cattle, or such Carcasses as we leave behind us, which in the dry Season feed the Carrion-Crows, but now are a Prey to the Alligators. They remain here till the Water drains off from the Land; and then confine themselves to the stagnant Ponds; and when they are dry, they ramble away to some Creek or River.

The Alligators in this *Bay* are not so fierce as they are reported to be in other Places; for I never knew them pursue any Man, although we do frequently meet them, nay, they will flee from us: and I have drank out of a Pond in the dry Time that hath been full of them, and the Water not deep enough to cover their Backs, and the compass of the Pond so small, that I could get no Water but by coming within two Yards of the Alligator's Nose; they lying with their Heads towards mine as I was drinking, and looking on me all the while. Neither did I ever hear of any bit in the Water by them, tho' probably should a Man happen in their way, they would seize upon him.

Having thus given some Description of the Country, I shall next give an Account of my living with the Logwood Men, and of several Occurrences that happened during my Stay here.

Tho' I was a Stranger to their Employment and Manner of living, as being known but to those few only of whom we bought our Wood, in my former Voyage hither; yet that little Acquaintance I then got, encouraged me to visit them after my second arrival here; being in hopes to strike in to work with them. There were six in Company, who had a Hundred Tuns ready cut, logg'd and chipp'd, but not brought to the Creek-side, and they expected

expected a Ship from *New-England* in a Month or two, to fetch it away. *An. 1676.*

When I came hither, they were beginning to bring it to the Creek: And because the Carriage is the hardest Work, they hired me to help them at the rate of a Tun of Wood *per Month*; promising me that after this Carriage was over, I should strike in to work with them, for they were all obliged in Bonds to procure this 100 Tuns jointly together, but for no more.

This Wood lay all in the Circumference of 5 or 600 Yards, and about 300 from the Creek-side in the middle of a very thick Wood, unpassable with Burthens. The first Thing we did was to bring it all to one Place in the middle, and from thence we cut a very large Path to carry it to the Creek-side. We laboured hard at this Work five Days in the Week; and on *Saturdays* went to the *Savannahs* and killed Beeves.

When they killed a Beef, if there were more than four of us, the Overplus went to seek fresh Game, whilst the rest dress'd it.

I went out the first *Sunday* and complied very well with my Master's Orders, which was only to help drive the Cattle out of the *Savannahs* into the Woods, where two or three Men lay to shoot them: And having kill'd our Game, we marched Home with our Burthens. The next *Saturday* after I went with a Design to kill a Beef my self, thinking it more Honour to try my own skill in Shooting, than only to drive the Game for others to shoot at. We went now to a Place called the *Upper-Savannah*, going four Miles in our Canoes, and then landing, walked one Mile through the Woods, before we came into the *Savannah*, and marched about two Miles in it, before we came up with any Game. Here I gave my Companions the slip, and wandered so far into the Woods that I lost my self; neither could I find the

An. 1676. way into the open Savannah, but instead of that ran directly from it, through small Spots of Savannahs and Skirts of Woods. This was sometime in *May*, and it was between ten a Clock and one when I began to find that I was (as we called it, I suppose from the *Spaniards*) *morooned*, or lost, and quite out of the Hearing of my Comrade's Guns. I was somewhat surprized at this; but however, I knew I should find my way out, as soon as the Sun was a little lower. So I sat down to rest my self; resolving however to run no farther out of my way; for the Sun being so near the Zenith, I could not distinguish how to direct my Course. Being weary and almost faint for want of Water, I was forced to have recourse to the Wild-Pines, and was by them supplied, or else I must have perished with Thirst. About three a Clock I went due North, as near as I could judge, for the Savannah lay East and West, and I was on the South-side of it.

At Sun-set I got into the clear open Savannah, being about two Leagues wide in most Places, but how long I know not. It is well stored with Bulls, but by frequent hunting they grow shy, and remove farther up into the Country. Here I found my self four or five Miles to the West of the Place where I stragled from my Companions. I made homewards with all the speed I could, but being overtaken by the Night, I lay down on the Grass a good distance from the Woods, for the benefit of the Wind, to keep the Muskitoes from me, but in vain: for in less than an Hours Time I was so persecuted, that though I endeavoured to keep them off by fanning my self with Boughs and shifting my Quarters three or four Times; yet still they haunted me so that I could get no sleep. At Day-break I got up and directed my Course to the Creek where we landed, from which I was then about two Leagues. I did not see one Beast of any sort what-
ever

ever in all the way ; though the Day before I saw *An* 1676: several young Calves that could not follow their Dams, but even these were now gone away, to my great Vexation and Disappointment, for I was very hungry. But about a Mile farther, I spied ten or twelve Quams perching upon the Boughs of a Cotton-Tree. These were not shy, therefore I got well enough under them ; and having a single Bullet (but no shot) about me, fired at one of them, but miss'd it, though I had before often killed them so. Then I came up with, and fired at five or six Turkeys, but with no better Success. So that I was forced to march forward still in the Savannah, toward the Creek ; and when I came to the Path that led to it through the Woods, I found (to my great Joy) a Hat stuck upon a Pole : and when I came to the Creek I found another. These were set up by my Conforts, who were gone home in the Evening, as Signals that they would come and fetch me. Therefore I sat down and waited for them ; for although I had not then above three Leagues home by Water, yet it would have been very difficult, if not impossible for me to have got thither over Land, by reason of those vast unpassable Thickets abounding every where along the Creek side ; wherein I have known some puzzled for two or three Days, and have not advanced half a Mile, though they laboured extremely every Day. Neither was I disappointed of my hopes ; for within half an Hour after my Arrival at the Creek, my Conforts came, bringing every Man his Bottle of Water, and his Gun, both to hunt for Game, and to give me notice by firing, that I might hear them ; for I have known several Men lost in the like manner, and never heard of afterwards.

Such an Accident befel one Captain *Hall* of *New-England*, who came hither in a *Boston* Ship, to take in Logwood, and was fraighted by two *Scotch-*

An. 1676. *men*, and one Mr. *W. Cane*, an *Irish*-man who designing to go with Goods from *Jamaica* to *New-England*; for that reason when his Logwood was aboard, tarried at *Trist* with the Ship, and hunted once in two or three Days for Beef to lengthen out his Salt Provision. One Morning the Captain designing to hunt, took five of his Men, with his Mate, as also his Merchant Mr. *Crane* along with him. They landed at the East-end of the Island, which is low *Man-grove-Land*; the Savannah is a considerable distance from the Sea, and therefore troublesome to get to it. However, unless they would row four or five Leagues farther, they could not find a more convenient place; beside, they doubted not of Mr. *Cane's* skill to conduct them. After they had followed him a Mile or two into the Woods, the Captain seeing him to make a Halt (as being in some doubt) to consider of the way, told him in derision, that he was but a sorry Woodsman, and that he would swing him but twice round, and he should not guess the way out again; and saying no more to him went forwards, and bid his Seamen follow him, which they did accordingly. Mr. *Cane*, after he had recollected himself, struck off another way, and desired them to go with him: But instead of that, they were all for following the Captain. In a short Time Mr. *Cane* got out of the Woods into the Savannah, and there killed a good fat Cow, and quartering it, made it fit for Carriage, supposing the Captain and Crew would soon be with him. But after waiting three or four Hours, and firing his Gun several Times, without hearing any Answer, took up his Burden and returned towards the Sea-side; and upon giving a signal a Boat came and brought him aboard. In the mean Time the Captain and his Men after four or five Hours ranging the Woods, began to grow tired, and then his Mate happily trusting more to his own Judgment, left him and the

the four Seamen, and about four or five a Clock, being almost spent with Thirst, got out of the Woods to the Sea-shore, and as weak as he was, fired his Gun for the Boat to fetch him, which was immediately done. *An. 1676.*

When we came aboard he gave an Account whereabout, and in what a Condition he left the Captain and his Men; but it being then too late to seek him, the next Morning very early Mr. *Cane* and two Seamen taking Directions from the Mate (who was so fatigued that he could not stir) where he had left the Captain, went ashore, and at length came within call of him, and at last found him laid down in a Thicket, having just sense to call out sometimes, but not Strength enough to stand; so they were forced to carry him to the Sea-side. When they had a little refreshed him with Brandy and Water, he told them how his Company had fainted for Thirst, and drop'd down one after another, though he still encouraged them to be chearful and rest themselves a while, till he got some supplies of Water for them; that they were very patient, and that two of his Men held out till five a Clock in the Afternoon, and then they fainted also; but he himself proceeded in quest of his way till Night; and then fell down in the place where they then found him.

The two Seamen carried the Captain aboard, while Mr. *Cane* searched about for the rest, but to no purpose; for he returned without them, and could never hear of them afterwards.

This was a warning to me never to straggle from my Consorts in our Hunting. But to proceed.

When my Month's Service was up, in which time we brought down all the Wood to the Creek-side, I was presently pay'd my Tun of Logwood; with which, and some more that I borrowed, I bought a little Provision, and was afterwards entertained as a

An. 1676 Companion at Work with some of my former Masters ; for they presently broke up Consortship, letting the Wood lye till either Mr. *West* came to fetch it, according to his Contract, or else till they should otherwise dispose of it. Some of them immediately went to *Beef-Island* to kill Bullocks for their Hides, which they preserve by pegging them out very tite on the Ground. First they turn the fleshy-side, and after the Hair upwards, letting them lye so till they are very dry. Thirty-two strong Pegs as big as a Man's Arm, are required to stretch the Hide as it ought to be. When they are dry they fold them in the middle from Head to Tail, with the Hair outward ; and then hang them cross a strong Pole, so high that the ends may not touch the Ground, 40 or 50 one upon another, and once in three Weeks or a Month they beat them with great Sticks, to strike off the Worms that breed in the Hair, and eat it off, which spoils the Hide. When they are to be ship'd off, they soak them in salt Water to kill the remaining Worms ; and while they are yet wet they fold them in four folds, and afterwards spread them abroad again to dry. When they are fully dry, they fold them up again, and so send them aboard. I was yet a Stranger to this Work, therefore remained with three of the old Crew to cut more Logwood. My Consorts were all three *Scotch-Men* ; one of them named *Price Morrice* had lived there some Years, and was Master of a pretty large Periago ; for without some sort of Boat, here is no stirring from one place to another. The other two were young Men that had been bred Merchants, viz. Mr. *Duncan Campbell* ; and Mr. *George* — These two not liking either the Place or Employment, waited an Opportunity of going away by the first Ship that came hither to take in Logwood. Accordingly not long after the above-mentioned Capt. *Hall* of *Boston*, came hither on that design, and was freighted

fraighted by them with 40 Tun. It was agreed that *George* should stay behind to cut Logwood; but *Campbell* should go to *New-England* to sell this Cargo, and bring back Flour, and such other Commodities that were proper to purchase Hides and Logwood in the Bay. This retarded our Business; for I did not find *Price Morrice* very intent at Work: for 'tis like he thought he had Logwood enough. And I have particularly observed there, and in other Places, that such as had been well-bred, were generally most careful to improve their Time, and would be very industrious and frugal, when there was any probability of considerable Gain. But on the contrary, such as had been inur'd to hard Labour, and got their Living by the sweat of their Brows, when they came to a Plenty, would extravagantly squander away their Time and Money in Drinking and making a Bluster.

To be short, I kept to my Work by my self, till I was hindered by a hard, red, and angry Swelling like a Boyl, in my right Leg; so painful that I was scarce able to stand on it: but I was directed to roast and apply the Roots of White Lillies (of which here is great plenty growing by the Creek sides) to draw it to a Head. This I did three or four Days, without any Benefit. At last I perceived two white Specks in the middle of the Boil; and squeezing it, two small white Worms spurted out: I took them both up in my Hand, and perceived each of them to be invested with three Rows of black, short, stiff Hair, running clear round them; one Row near each end; the other in the middle; each Row distinct from other; and all very regular and uniform. The Worms were about the bigness of a Hen's Quill, and about three fourths of an Inch long.

I never saw Worms of this sort breed in any Man's Flesh. Indeed *Guinea Worms* are very frequent in some Places of the *West-Indies*, especially at *Curaçao*;

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fao; They breed as well in Whites as Negroes : And because that Island was formerly a Magazin of Negroes, while the *Dutch* drove that Trade with the *Spaniards*, and the Negroes were most subject to them ; 'twas therefore believed that other People took them by Infection from them. I rather judge that they are generated by drinking bad Water ; and 'tis as likely that the Water of the other Island of *Aruba* and *Bonairry* may produce the same Effects ; for many of those that went with me from thence to *Virginia* (mentioned in my former Volume) were troubled with them after our Arrival there : particularly I my self had one broke out in my Ankle, after I had been there five or six Months.

These Worms are no bigger than a large brown Thread, but (as I have heard) five or six Yards long, and if it breaks in drawing out, that part which remains in the Flesh will putrifie, and be very painful, and indanger the Patient's Life ; or at least the use of that Limb : and I have known some that have been scarified and cut strangely, to take out the Worm. I was in great Torment before it came out : my Leg and Ankle swell'd and look'd very red and angry ; and I kept a Plaister to it to bring it to a Head. At last drawing off my Plaister out came about three Inches of the Worm ; and my Pain abated presently. Till then I was ignorant of my Malady ; and the Gentlewomen, at whose House I was, took it for a Nerve ; but I knew well enough what it was, and presently roll'd it up on a small Stick. After that I opened it every Morning and Evening, and strained it out gently, about two Inches at a time, not without some pain, till at length I had got out about two Foot.

Riding with one *Mr. Richardson*, who was going to a Negro to have his Horse cured of a gall'd Back, I asked the Negro if he could undertake my Leg : which he did very readily ; and in the mean time

time I observed his Method in curing the Horſe; *An. 1676.* which was this. Firſt he ſtrok'd the ſore Place, then applying to it a little rough Powder, which looked like Tobacco-Leaves dryed and crumbled ſmall, and mumbling ſome Words to himſelf, he blew upon the part three times, and waving his Hands as often over it, ſaid, it would be well ſpeedily. His Fee for the Cure was a white Cock.

Then coming to me, and looking on the Worm in my Ankle, he promiſed to cure it in three Days, demanding alſo a white Cock for his Pains, and uſing exactly the ſame Method with me, as he did with the Horſe. He bad me not open it in three Days; but I did not ſtay ſo long; for the next Morning the Cloath being rubb'd off, I unbound it, and found the Worm broken off, and the hole quite healed up. I was afraid the remaining Part would have given ſome Trouble, but have not felt any Pain there from that Day to this.

To return. I told you how I was interrupted in following my Work, by the Worm's breeding in my Leg. And to compleat my Misfortune, preſently after we had the moſt violent Storm for above 24 Hours, that ever was known in theſe Parts. An Account of which I ſhall give more particularly in my *Diſcourſe of Winds*, and ſhall now only mention ſome Paſſages.

I have already ſaid, we were four of us in Company at this Place cutting Logwood: and by this Storm were reduced to great Inconveniencies; for while that laſted we could drefs no Victuals, nor even now it was over, unleſs we had done it in the Canoa; for the higheſt Land near us was almoſt three Foot under Water: beſides our Proviſion too was moſt of it ſpoiled, except the Beef and Pork, which was but little the worſe.

We had a good Canoa large enough to carry us all; and ſeeing it in vain to ſtay here any longer, we
all

An. 1676. all embarked and rowed away, to *One-Bush-Key*, about four Leagues from our Huts. There were four Ships riding here, when the Storm began : but at our Arrival we found only one, and hoped to have got some Refreshment from it, but found very cold Entertainment : For we could neither get Bread nor Punch, nor so much as a Dram of Rum, though we offered them Money for it. The Reason was, they were already over-charged with such as being distressed by the Storm, had been forced to take Sanctuary with them. Seeing we could not be supplied here, we asked which way the other three Ships were driven ? they told us that Captain *Prout* of *New-England* was driven towards *Trist*, and 'twas probable he was carried out to Sea, unless he struck on a Sand, called the *Middle-Ground* ; that Captain *Skinner* of *New-England* was driven towards *Beef-Island* ; and Captain *Chandler* of *London*, drove away towards *Man-of-War Lagune*.

Beef-Island lies North from *One-Bush-Key* ; but the other two Places lie a little on each side : One to the East ; the other to the West. So away we went for *Beef-Island* : and coming within a League of it, we saw a Flag in the Woods, made fast to a Pole, and placed on the Top of a high Tree. And coming still nearer, we at last saw a Ship in the Woods, about 200 Yards from the Sea. We rowed directly towards her ; and when we came to the Woods side, found a pretty clear Passage made by the Ship thro' the Woods, the Trees being all broke down ; and about three Foot Water Home to the Ship. We rowed in with our Canoa, and went aboard, and were kindly entertained by the Seamen : but the Captain was gone aboard Captain *Prout*, who stuck fast on the middle Ground before-mentioned. Captain *Prout's* Ship was afterwards got off again ; but the Stumps of the Trees ran clear through the bottom of Captain *Skinner's*, therefore there was no hope

hope of saving her. Here we got Victuals and Punch, and stayed about two Hours, in which Time the Captain came aboard and invited us to stay all Night. But hearing some Guns fired in *Man-of-War Lagune*, we concluded that Captain *Chandler* was there, and wanted Assistance. Therefore we presently rowed away thither, for we could do no Service here; and before Night found him also stuck fast on a Point of Sand. The Head of his Ketch was dry, and at the Stern there was above four Foot Water. Our coming was very seasonable to Captain *Chandler*, with whom we stayed two Days: in which Time we got out all his Goods, carried off his Anchor, &c. and so not being able as yet to do him more Service, we left him for the present, and went away to hunt at *Beef-Island*.

At *Trist* were four Vessels riding before this Storm; one of them was driven off to Sea, and never heard of afterwards. Another was cast dry upon the shore, where she lay and was never got off again: But the third rode it out. Another was riding without the Bar of *Trist*, and she put to Sea, and got to *New-England*; but much shattered. About three Days before this Storm began, a small Vessel, commanded by Captain *Vally*, went hence, bound to *Jamaica*. This Vessel was given for lost by all the Logwood-Cutters; but about four Months after she returned thither again; and the Captain said he felt nothing of the Storm, but when he was about 30 Leagues to Windward of *Trist*, he had a fresh *Summasenta Wind* that carried him as high as *Cape Concedo*; but all the Time he saw very black Clouds to the Westward.

Beef-Island is about seven Leagues long, and three or four broad. It lies in length East and West. The East-end looks towards the Island *Trist*; and is low drowned Land: and near the Sea produceth nothing but white and black Mangrove-Trees. The North.

An. 1676. North-side lies open to the Main Sea, running straight from East to West. The Eastermost part for about three Leagues from *Trist* is Low and Mangrovy; at the end of which there is a small salt Creek, deep enough at high Water for Boats to pass.

From this Creek to the West-end, is four Leagues all sandy Bay, closed on the back-side with a low Sand-bank, abounding with thick prickly Bushes, like a White-thorn; bearing a whitish hard shell-Fruit, as big as a Sloe, much like a Callabash. The West-end is washed with the River *St. Peter St. Paul*. This end is over-grown with red Mangroves. About three Leagues up from the Mouth of this River shoots forth a small Branch, running to the Eastward, and dividing *Beef-Island* from the Main on the South, and afterwards makes a great Lake of fresh Water, called *Fresh-Water Lagune*. This afterwards falls into a salt Lake, called *Man-of-War Lagune*; which empties it self into *Laguna Termina*, about two Leagues from the South-East Point of the Island.

The inside or middle of this Island is a Savannah, bordered all round with Trees, most Mangrovy; either black, white or red, with some Logwood.

The South-side, between the Savannahs and the Mangroves is very rich. Some of this Land lyes in Ridges higher than the Savannahs.

The Savannahs produce plenty of long Grass, and the Ridges curious high flourishing Trees of divers sorts.

The Fruits of this Island are *Penguins*, both red and yellow, *Guavers*, *Sapadilloes*, *Limes*, *Oranges*, &c. These last but lately planted here by a Colony of *Indians*; who revolted from the *Spaniards* and settled here.

It is no new Thing for the *Indians* in these woody Parts of *America*, to fly away whole Towns at once, and settle themselves in the unfrequented Woods

Woods to enjoy their Freedom ; and if they are *An. 1676.* accidentally discovered, they will remove again ; which they easily do ; their Household-Goods being little else but their Cotton Hammocks, and their Callabashes. They build every Man his own House, and tie up their Hammocks between two Trees ; wherein they sleep till their Houses are made. The Woods afford them some Subsistence, as *Pecary* and *Warree*, but they that are thus stroling (or *morooning*, as the *Spaniards* call it) have Plantain-Walks that no Man knows but themselves, and from thence they have their Food, till they have raised Plantation Provision near their new built Town. They clear no more Ground than what they actually employ for their Subsistence. They make no Paths : but when they go far from Home, they break now and then a Bough, letting it hang down, which serves as a Mark to guide them in their return. If they happen to be discovered by other *Indians*, inhabiting still among the *Spaniards*, or do but mistrust it, they immediately shift their Quarters to another Place. This large Country affording them good fat Land enough, and very Woody, and therefore a proper Sanctuary for them.

It was some of these fugitive *Indians* that came to live at *Beef-Island* ; where, besides gaining their Freedom from the *Spaniards*, they might see their Friends and Acquaintance, that had been taken some Time before by the Privateers, and sold to the Log-wood-Cutters, with whom some of the Women lived still, tho' others of them had been conducted by them to their own Habitations. ——— It was these Women after their return made known the kind Entertainment that they met with from the *English* ; and perswaded their Friends to leave their Dwellings near the *Spaniards*, and settle on this Island ; and they had been here almost a Year before they were discovered by the *English* : and even then were accidentally

An. 1676. accidentally found out by the Hunters, as they followed their Game. They were not very shy all the time I lived there ; but I know that upon the least disgust they would have been gone.

The Animals of this Island are, *Squashes* in abundance, *Porcupines*, *Guanoes*, *Possomes*, *Pecary*, *Deer*, *Horses*, and *Horn-Cattle*.

This Island does properly belong to *John d' Acosta* a *Spaniard* of *Campeachy Town*, who possessed it when the *English* first came hither to cut *Logwood*. His Habitation was then at the Town of *Campeachy* ; but in the dry Season he used to come hither in a Bark, with six or seven Servants, and spend two or three Months in hocksing and killing Cattle, only for their Hides and Tallow.

The *English* *Logwood-Cutters* happened once to come hither, whilst *John d' Acosta* was there ; and he hearing their Guns, made towards them, and desired them to forbear firing ; because it would make the Cattle wild ; but told them that any Time when they wanted Beef, if they sent to him he would hox as many as they pleased, and bring the Meat to their Canoas. The *English* thankfully accepted his Offer ; and did never after shoot his Cattle ; but sent to him when they wanted ; and he (according to his Promise) supplied them. This created him so much Friendship, that they intended when they returned to *Jamacia* to bring him a Present, and Goods also to Trade with him ; which would have been very Advantagious to both Parties : but some of his Servants acquainted the Townsmen of it, at his return to *Campeachy*. And they being Jealous of the *English*, and envying him, complained to the Governour ; who presently cast him into Prison, where he remained many Years : This happened about the Year 71 or 72. Thus the Project of Trading with the *English* miscarried here, and *John d' Acosta* was forced to relinquish his Right of this pleasant

ſant and profitable Iſland, leaving it wholly to the *English*; for neither he nor any other *Spaniard* ever came hither afterward to hockſ Cattle. An. 1676. 

This way of Hockſing Bullocks ſeems peculiar to the *Spaniards*; eſpecially to thoſe that live hereabouts, who are very dextrous at it. For this Reaſon ſome of them are conſtantly employed in it all the Year; and ſo become very expert. The *Hockſer* is mounted on a good Horſe, bred up to the Sport; who knows ſo well when to advance or retreat upon Occaſion, that the Rider has no trouble to manage him. His Arms is a Hockſing Iron, which is made in the Shape of a Half-Moon, and from one Corner to the other is about ſix or ſeven Inches; with a very ſharp Edge.

This Iron is faſtned by a Socket to a Pole about fourteen or fifteen Foot long. When the *Hockſer* is mounted, he lays the Pole over the Head of his Horſe, with the Iron forward, and then rides after his Game; and having overtaken it, ſtrikes his Iron juſt above the Hock, and hamſtrings it. The Horſe preſently wheels off to the left; for the wounded Beaſt makes at him preſently with all his Force; but he ſcampers away a good Diſtance before he comes about again. If the Hamſtring is not quite cut aſunder with the Stroke, yet the Bullock by continual ſpringing out his Leg, certainly breaks it: and then can go but on three Legs, yet ſtill limps forward to be revenged on his Enemy. Then the *Hockſer* rides up ſoftly to him and ſtrikes his Iron into the Knee of one of his fore-Legs; and then he immediately tumbles down. He gets off his Horſe, and taking a ſharp-pointed ſtrong Knife, ſtrikes it into his Pole, a little behind the Horns, ſo dextrouſly that at one Blow he cuts the String of his Neck; and down falls his Head. This they call *Poling*. Then the *Hockſer* immediately mounts, and rides after more Game, leaving the other to the

An. 1676 Skinners, who are at hand, and ready to take off his Hide.

The right Ear of the Hockling-Horse by the Weight of the Pole laid constantly over it when on Duty, hangs down always, by which you may know it from other Horses.

The *Spaniards* pick and chuse only the Bulls and old Cows, and leave the young Cattle to breed; by which means they always preserve their Stock entire. On the contrary, the *English* and *French* kill without Distinction; yea, the Young rather than the Old; without regard of keeping up their Stock. *Jamaica* is a remarkable Instance of this our Folly in this Particular. For when it was first taken by the *English*, the *Savannahs* were well stockt with Cattle; but were soon all destroy'd by our Soldiers, who suffered great Hardships afterwards for it: and it was never stock'd again till Sir *Thomas Linch* was Governour. He sent to *Cuba* for a Supply of Cattle, which are now grown very plentiful, because every Man knows his own proper Goods. Whereas before, when there was no Property, each Man destroyed as fast as he could. The *French* (I think) are greater Destroyers than the *English*.

Had it not been for the great care of the *Spaniards* in stocking the *West-Indies* with Hogs and Bullocks, the Privateers must have starved. But now the Main, as well as the Island, is plentifully provided; particularly the Bay of *Campeachy*, the Islands of *Cuba*, *Pines*, *Hispaniola*, *Portarica*, &c. Where, besides wild Hogs, there are Abundance of Crawls or Hog-farms; in some of which, I have heard, there are no less than 1500. This was the main Subsistence of the Privateers.

But to return again to *Beef-Island*. Our *English* Hunters have much lessen'd the numbers of the Cattle there. And those that are left, by constant shooting now are grown so wild and desperate, that it

is dangerous for a single Man to fire at them, or to venture through the Savannahs. For the old Bulls that have been formerly shot, will make at him: and they will all draw up in Battalia to defend themselves upon our Approach; the old Bulls in the Front; behind them the Cows, in the same manner; and behind them the young Cattle. And if we strive to wheel about to get in the Reer, the Bulls will certainly face about that way, and still present a Front to us. Therefore we seldom strive to shoot any out of a great Herd; but walk about in the Woods, close by the Savannah; and there we light of our Game. The Beast makes directly at the Hunter, if it be desperately wounded (as I have experienced my self) but if but slightly, they commonly run away. The old Hunters tell us, that a Cow is more dangerous of the two; because they say, she runs at her Enemy with her Eyes open; but the Bull shuts his, so that you may easily avoid him. But this I cannot affirm upon my own Knowledge, and rather doubt the Truth of it; for I knew one shrewdly gor'd by a Bull. He was a Consort with Mr. *Baker*, in the West Lagune; where having tir'd themselves with cutting of Logwood, they took an Occasion to go in their Canoa to *Beef-Island*, to refresh themselves their a Fortnight or three Weeks; because here were several sorts of Fruits, and Plenty of Cabbage to eat with their fresh Beef, which they could not fail to meet with. They came to a Place call'd the *Salt-Creek*; and there built them a Hut. About four a Clock, while Mr. *Baker* lay down to sleep, his Consort march'd out into the Savannah, about a Mile from their Huts; and there coming within Shot of a Bull, wounded him desperately; but yet the Bull had still so much Strength left as to pursue and overtake his Adversary, trampling on him; and goring his Thigh, so that he was not able

An. 1676. to rise. The Bull by this Time was spent, and fell down dead by him: And there the Man had also perished, if Mr. *Baker* had not come the next Morning to seek him; who finding him by the dead Beast, took him on his Back, and lugg'd him home to their Hut. The next Day he put him in his Canoa, and delivered him aboard a Ship, into the Hands of a Surgeon, who cured him in a little time.

I told you we left Capt. *Chandler*, with a Design of going to *Beef-Island*, to spend some time in Hunting at *Pies Pond*, before mentioned. But before we came thither we went ashore to kill a Beef for Supper; where I was surprized with an odd Accident. Passing through a small Savannah, about two or three Foot deep, we smelt a strong Scent of an Alligator; and presently after I stumbled over one, and fell down immediately. I cry'd out for Help; but my Consorts, instead of assisting me, ran away towards the Wood. I had no sooner got up to follow them, but I stumbled on him a second time; and a third time also; expecting still when I fell down to be devoured. Yet at last I got out safe; but so frightened that I never cared for going through the Water again as long as I was in the Bay.



C H A P. IV.

The River St. Peter St. Paul. The Mountain-Cow and Hippopotamus. Tobasco Island. Guavers. Tobasco River. Manatee. Villa de Mosa. Estapo. Halapo. Tacatalpo de Sierra. Small Bees. Indians. Tartillos. Posole. Cotton Garments. Early Marriages. Towns. Festivals. Shape and Features.

THE River *St. Peter St. Paul* springs from the high Mountains of *Chiapo*, about 20 Leagues within the Country, which are so called from a City not far distant. Its first Course is Easterly for a considerable Length, till it meets with Mountains on that Side: then it turns short about Northward, till within twelve Leagues of the Sea. And lastly, it divides its self into two Branches. The Western Branch falls into the River *Tobasco*; the other keeps its Course till within four Leagues of the Sea; then divides it self again. The Eastermost of these Branches separates *Beef-Island* from the Main; and falls into *Man-of-War-Lagune*, as is before related. The other keeps its Course and Name till it falls into the Sea, between *Beef-Island* and *Tobasco-Island*; where it is no broader than the *Thames* at *Gravesend*. There is a Bar at its Entrance, but of what Depth I know not; over which small Vessels may pass well enough by the Benefit of the Tide. It is both deeper and broader after you are in; for there it is fifteen or sixteen Foot Water, and very good Riding. By Report of the Privateers who have been up this River, it is very broad before it

The Mountain Cow.

An 1676 parts; and beyond that farther in the Country, has divers large *Indian Towns* built on its Banks: the chief of which is called *Summasenta*; and many large Cacao and Plantain-walks: the Soil on each Side being very fruitful. The unmanu'd Land is overgrown with lofty Trees of many sorts, especially the Cotton or Cabbage; of the latter there are whole Groves; and in some Places (especially a little way from the River's side) great Savannahs full of Bullocks, Horses, and other Animals; amongst which the Mountain Cow (called by the *Spaniards Ante*) is most remarkable.

This Beast is as big as a Bullock of two Years old. It is shaped like a Cow in Body; but her Head much bigger. Her Nose is short, and the Head more compact and round. She has no Horns. Her Eyes are round, full, and of a prodigious Size. She has great Lips, but not so thick as the Cows Lips. Her Ears are in Proportion to the Head, rather broader than those of the Common Cow. Her Neck is thick and short. Her Legs also shorter than ordinary. She has a pretty long Tail; thin of Hairs, and no Bob at the end. She has coarse thin Hair all over her Body. Her Hide is near two Inches thick. Her Flesh is red; the Grain of it very fine. The Fat is white, and all together it is sweet wholesome Meat. One of them will weigh 5 or 600 Weight.

This Creature is always found in the Woods near some large River; and feeds on a sort of long thin Grass, or Moss, which grows plentifully on the Banks of Rivers; but never feeds in Savannahs, or Pastures of good Grass, as all other Bullocks do. When her Belly is full, she lies down to sleep by the Brink of the River; and at the least Noise slips into the Water: where sinking down to the Bottom, tho' very deep, she walks as on dry Ground. She cannot run fast, therefore never rambles far from the River; for there she always takes Sanctuary, in case
of



*The Mountain Cow;
or, as some think;
The Hippopotamus.
Described in Cap^t Dampier
2^d Vol. in *Campaechy* in
Page 102. 3. 4. 5. 6 & 7.*

of danger. There is no shooting of her, but when *An. 1676.*
she is asleep.

They are found, besides this Place, in the Rivers in the Bay of *Honduras*; and on all the Main from thence as high as the River of *Darien*. Several of my Consorts have kill'd them there, and knew their Track, which I my self saw in the *Isthmus of Darien*; but should not have known it, but as I was told by them. For I never did see one, nor the Track of any but once. The Impression in the Sand, seem'd much like the Track of a Cow, but I was well assured that none of our common Cows could live in that Place, neither are there any near it by many Miles.

My Consorts then gave me this Relation, and since I have had the same from other *English-men* as well as *Spaniards*.

Having shew'd the foregoing Description to a Person of Honour, he was pleas'd to send it to a learned Friend in *Holland*; from whom he received this Answer.

S I R,

THE Account I have of this Paper from the English Minister at Leyden is this. The Description of your Sea-Cow, agrees with the Hippopotamus kept here so exactly, that I take them to be Creatures of the same kind. Only this here at Leyden is bigger than any Ox. For the Eyes, Ears and Hair, nothing can be said, seeing this Skin wants all these. The Teeth are worth noticing, which are very large, and firm, and fine as any Ivory.

I have spoke with a very Intelligent Person, Kinsman to the Burgomaster of Leyden, who having had that Hippopotamus (as they call it) presented to him, made a Present thereof to the University; who having view'd that Skin very well, saith, It's much bigger than

An. 1676. you make yours, and cannot weigh less than one Thousand Weight.

Let me add of mine own, that perhaps they are greater, about the Cape of Good Hope; whence that of Leyden came. And seeing there are no Horns, perhaps it may as well be called a River-Horse as a River-Cow: But for that, it must bear the Denomination given it by the People of the Place where they are; which may be different in Africa and America.

But what he says of her sinking to the Bottom in deep Rivers, and walking there, if he adds, what I think he supposes, that he rises again, and comes on the Land; I much question. For that such a huge Body should raise it self up again (though I know Whales and great Fishes can and do) transcends the Faith of I. H.

I readily acknowledge, there is some Resemblance between this *Mountain-Cow* of *America*, and the *African Hippopotamus*; but yet am of Opinion that they must needs be of a different Species; for the *Mountain-Cow* is never known to swim out to Sea, nor to be found near it; and is not above half so big, and has no long Teeth. But for further Satisfaction, I have here inserted two Accounts of the *African Hippopotamus*, as they were sent; the one to the Honourable Person before-mentioned, from Captain *Covent* of *Porbury*, near *Bristol*, a Gentleman of great Ability and Experience, as well as known Integrity, who used to trade to *Angola*: The other to my self, from my worthy Friend Captain *Rogers*, as he has seen them in the *River Natal*, in the Latitude of thirty; on the East-side of the *Cape of Good Hope*.

The *Sea-Horse's* Head, Ears and Nostrils are like our *Horses*; with a short Tail and Legs. And his Foot-steps in the Sand like a *Horse's*; but the Body above
twice

twice as big. He grazes on the Shore, and dungs *As. 1976.* like a Horfe. Is of a dark-brown, but glittering in the Water. His Pace is but slow on the Shore; in the Water more swift. He there feeds on small Fish and what he can get; and will go down to the Bottom in three Fathom Water. For I have watch'd him; and he hath staid above half an Hour before he arose. He is very mischievous to white Men. I have known him open his Mouth and set one Tooth on the Gunnel of a Boat, and another on the second Strake from the Keel (which was more than four Foot distant) and there bit a Hole through the Plank, and sunk the Boat; and after he had done, he went away shaking his Ears. His Strength is incredibly great; for I have seen him in the Wash of the Shore, when the Sea has tossed in a *Dutch-man's* Boat, with fourteen Hogsheds of Water in her, upon the said Beast; and left it dry on his Back; and another Sea came and fetch'd the Boat off, and the Beast was not hurt, as far as I could perceive. How his Teeth grow in his Mouth I could not see; only that they were round like a Bow, and about sixteen Inches long; and in the biggest part more than six Inches about. We made several Shot at him; but to no Purpose, for they would glance from him as from a Wall. The Natives call him a *Kittimpungo*, and say he is *Fetisso*, which is a kind of a God; for nothing, they say, can kill him: And if they should do to him, as the white Men do, he would soon destroy their Canoas and Fishing-Nets. Their Custom is when he comes near their Canoas, to throw him Fish; and then he passeth away, and will not meddle with their Fishing-Craft. He doth most Mischief when he can stand on the Ground; but when afloat, hath only Power to bite. As our Boat once lay near the Shore, I saw him go under her, and with his Back lift her out of the Water; and overset her with six Men aboard, but, as it happen'd, did them no harm.

Whilst

1676. Whilst we lay in the Road we had three of them, which did trouble this Bay every Full and Change, and two or three Days after; the Natives say, they go together, two Males and one Female, Their Noise is much like the Bellowing' of a large Calf.

This past Remark was made of a Sea-Horse at Loango, in the Year 1695.

Captain ROGER'S Letter.

SIR,

THE Hippopotamus or Sea-Horse, lives as well on the Land as in the Sea or in Rivers. It is shaped much like an Ox, but bigger; weighing 1500 or, 1600 Pound. This Creature is very full-bodied, and covered with Hair of a Mouse-Colour; thick, short and of a very beautiful Sleekness, when he first comes out of the Water. The Head is flattish on the Top. It has no Horns: but large Lips, a wide Mouth, and strong Teeth; four of which are longer than the rest, (viz.) two in the upper Jaw; one on each side, and two more in the under: These last are four or five Inches long; the other two are shorter. It has large broad Ears; great goggle Eyes; and is very quick-sighted. It has a thick Neck, and strong Legs, but weak Footlocks. The Hoofs of his Feet are Cloven in the Middle: And it has two small Hoofs above the Footlock, which bending to the Ground when it goes, make an Impression on the Sand like four Claws. His Tail is short and tapering like a Swines; without any Bob at the end. This Beast is commonly fat and very good Meat. It grazeth ashore in wet swampy Ground near Rivers or Ponds; but retires to the Water, if pursued. When they are in the Water, they will sink down to the Bottom; and there walk as on dry Ground. They will run almost as fast as a Man; but if chased hard, they will turn about and look very fierce, like a Boar; and fight if put to it. The Natives

tives of the Country have no Wars with these Creatures; but we had many Conflicts with them, both on Shore and in the Rivers: and though we commonly got the better by killing some, and routing the rest; yet in the Water we durst not molest them, after one Bout; which had like to have proved fatal to 3 Men that went in a small Canoa to kill a single Sea-Horse, in a River where was 8 or 10 Foot Water. The Horse, according to his Custom, was marching in the bottom of the River; and being spied by these Men, they wounded him with a long Lance; which so enraged the Beast, that he rose up immediately, and giving a fierce look he opened his Jaws and bit a great piece of the Gunnal or upper edge of the Canoa, and was like to over-set it, but presently sunk down again to the bottom: and the Men made away as fast as they could, for fear he should come again.

The West branch of the River *St. Peter St. Paul*, after it has run 8 or 9 Leagues N. W. loseth it self in *Tobasco River* about 4 Leagues from the Sea, and so makes the Island *Tobasco*, which is 12 Leagues long, and 4 broad at the North-end: for from the River *St. Peter St. Paul*, to the Mouth of *Tobasco River*, is accounted 4 Leagues; and the Shore lies East and West.

The first League on the East is *Mangrove Land*, with some sandy Bay, where Turtle come ashore to lay their Eggs.

The West-part of it is sandy Bay quite to the River *Tobasco*. But because here is constantly a great Sea, you have no good Landing till within the River. The N. W. part of it is full of *Guaver Trees*, of the greatest variety; and their Fruit the largest and best tasted I have met with; and 'tis really a very delicious Place. There are also some *Coco-Plums* and *Grapes*, but not many. The Savannahs here are naturally fenced with Groves of *Guavers*, and produce good

An. 1676. good Grass for Pasture, and are pretty well stock'd with fat Bullocks : and I do believe it is from their eating the Guaver Fruit that these Trees are so thick. For this Fruit is full of small Seeds ; which being swallowed whole by the Cattle, are voided whole by them again ; and then taking root in their Dung, spring up abundantly.

Here are also Deer in great numbers ; these we constantly find feeding in the Savannahs Mornings and Evenings. And I remember an unlucky Accident whilst I was there. Two or three Men went out one Evening purposely to hunt ; when they were in the spots of Savannahs, they separated to find their Game, and at last it so happened, that one of them fired at a Deer and killed it, and while he was skinning it, he was shot stark dead by one of his Consorts, who fired at him, mistaking him for a Deer. The poor Man was very sorry for so sad a mischance ; and for fear of the dead Man's Friends, durst never go back again to *Jamaica*.

The River of *Tobasco* is the most noted in all the Bay of *Campeachy*, and springs also from the high Mountains of *Chiapo* ; but much more to the Westward than that of *St. Peter St. Paul*. From thence it runs N. E. till within 4 Leagues of the Sea, where it receives the fore-mentioned Branch of *St. Peter St. Paul*, and then runs North till it falls into the Sea. Its Mouth is about two Miles wide, and there is a Bar of Sand lying off it, with not above 11 or 12 foot Water ; but a Mile or two within the Mouth, at a nook or bending of the River on the East-side there is three Fathom, and good Riding, without any danger from the strength of the Current. The Tide flows up about four Leagues in the dry Season, but in the Rains not so far ; for then the Freshes make the Ebb run very strong.

During

During the Norths it overflows all the low Land *An. 1676.* for 14 or 15 Leagues up the River, and you may then take up fresh Water without the Bar.

This River, near its Mouth, abounds with Cat-fish, with some Snooks, and *Manatee* in great plenty; there being good feeding for them in many of its Creeks, especially in one place on the Starboard-side about 2 Leagues from the Sea, which runs into the Land 2 or 300 paces, and then opens very wide, and is so shoal that you may see their backs above Water as they feed; a thing so rare, that I have heard our *Musketo-Men* say, they never saw it any where else; on the least noise they will all scamper out into the River: yet the *Musketo-men* seldom miss of striking them. There are a sort of Fresh-water *Manatee*, not altogether so big as the Sea-kind, but otherwise exactly alike in shape and taste, and I think rather fatter. The Land by the Rivers, especially on the Starboard side, is swampy, and overgrown with Trees.

Here are also abundance of Trees, (the largest that I ever saw, till I came to the *Gallapagos* Islands in the S. Seas) viz. *Mangroves*, *Macaws*, and other forts that I know not. In some places near the River-side, further up the Country, are Ridges of dry Land, full of lofty Cabbage and Cotton Trees, which make a very pleasant Landskip. There is no Settlement within 8 Leagues of the River's Mouth, and then you come to a small Breast-work, where there is commonly a *Spaniard* with 8 or 9 *Indians* posted on each side the River, to watch for Boats coming that way: And because there are divers Creeks running in from the *Savannahs*, some of these Centinels are so placed in the Woods, that they may look into the *Savannahs*, for fear of being surprized on the back side; Yet for all their caution, these Centinels were snap'd by *Captain Nevil*, Commander of a small *Brigantine*, in a second Expedition that he made to take the Town called *Villa de Mosa*. His first

An. 1676. first attempt miscarried by his being discovered. But the second time he got into a Creek, a League below these Centinels, and there dragging his Canoes over some Trees that were laid cross it, purposely to hinder his Passage, he came in the Night upon their Backs in their several Posts; so that the Town, having notice of his coming by their firing as they should have done, was taken without any resistance.

Villa de Mofa is a small Town standing on the Starboard side of the River, 4 Leagues beyond this Breast-work. 'Tis inhabited chiefly by *Indians*, with some *Spaniards*: There is a Church in the middle, and a Fort at the West-end, which commands the River. Thus far Ships come to bring Goods, especially *European* Commodities; viz. Broad-cloth, Serges, Perpetuana's, Kerfies, Thread-Stockings, Hats, Osnabrigs white and blew, Kentins, Platilloes, Britannia's, Hollandilloes, Iron-work, &c. They arrive here in *November* or *December*, and stay till *June* or *July*, selling their Commodities, and then load chiefly with *Cacao*, and some *Sylvester*. All the *Merchants* and petty *Traders* of the Country Towns come hither about *Christmas* to Traffick, which makes this Town the chiefest in all these parts, *Campeachy* excepted; yet there are but few Rich Men that live here. Sometimes Ships that come hither load Hides and Tallow, if they cannot freight with *Cacao*. But the chiefest place for Hides is a Town lying on a Branch of this River, that comes out a League below the Breast-work, where *Spanish* Barks usually lade once a Year; but I can give no further account of it. Four Leagues beyond *Villa de Mofa* further up the River lies *Estapo*, inhabited partly with *Spaniards*, but most *Indians*, as generally the Towns in this Country are: It's said to be pretty rich; stands close by the River, on the South-side, and is so built between two Creeks, that there is but one Avenue leading to it; and so well guarded with

with a Breast-work, that *Captain Hewet* a Privateer, *An. 1676.* who had under him near 200 Men, was there repulsed, losing many of them, and himself wounded in the Leg. In his way thither he took *Villa de Mosa*, and left a Party there to secure his Retreat. If he had taken *Eslapo*, he designed to pass on to *Halpo*, a Rich Town, three Leagues farther up the River, and from thence to visit *Tacatalpo*, lying 3 or 4 Leagues beyond, which is accounted the wealthiest of the three: the *Spaniards* call it *Tacatalpo de Sierra*: whether to distinguish it from another Town of that Name, or to denote its nearness to the Mountains, I know not. 'Tis the best Town on this River, having three Churches, and several rich Merchants; and between it and *Villa de Mosa* are many large Cacao Walks on each side the River.

I have seen a sort of white Cacao brought from hence, which I never met with any where else. It is of the same bigness and colour on the outside, and with such a thin husky Coat as the other; but the inner Substance is white, like fine Flower; and when the outward Coat is broken, it crumbles as a lump of Flower doth. Those that frequent the Bay call it *Spama*, and affirm that it is much used by the *Spaniards* of those Parts, to make their Chocolate froth, who therefore set a great value on it. But I never yet met with any in *England* that knew it, except the Right Honourable the Earl of *Casbery*, who was pleased to tell me he had seen of it.

The Land on the South-side of the River is low Savannahs or Pasture: The side where the Town of *Villa de Mosa* stands, is a sort of gray sandy Earth; and the whole Country, the Up-land I mean, seems to be much the same: But the Low-land is of a black deep Mold, and in some places very strong Clay; and there is not a Stone to be found in all the Country. The healthy dry Land is very woody, except where inhabited or planted. It is pretty thick settled with

An. 1676. with *Indian Towns*, who have all a *Padre* or two among them, and a *Cacique* or *Governour* to keep the Peace. The *Cacao Tree* thrives here very well; but the *Nuts* are smaller than the *Caraccus Nuts*; yet Oily and Fat whilst new. They are not planted near the Sea, as they are on the Coast of *Caraccus*, but at least 8 or 10 Miles up in the Country. The *Cacao-walks* belong chiefly to the *Spaniards*; and are only planted and dress'd by *Indians*, hired for that purpose; yet the *Indians* have of their own, *Plantain-walks*, *Plantations of Maiz*, and some small *Cacao-walks*; about which they spend the chiefest of their time. Some employ themselves to search in the Woods for Bees that build in hollow Trees; and get a good livelihood by the Honey and Wax. These are of two sorts: One pretty large; the other no bigger, but longer, than an ordinary black Fly: in other respects, just like our common Bees; only of a darker Colour. Their Stings are not strong enough to enter a Man's Skin; but if disturbed, they will fly at one as furiously as the great Bees; and will tickle, but cannot hurt you. Their Honey is white and clear; and they make a great deal of it. The *Indians* keep of them tame, and cut hollow Trunks for them to make their Combs in. They place one end of the Log (which is saw'd very even) on a Board, leaving a hole for the Bees to creep in at: and the upper end is covered with a Board, put close over it. The young and lusty *Indians* (such as want Employment) hire themselves to the *Spaniards*. They Work cheap, and are commonly paid in such Goods as the *Spaniards* do not value. And I have been told that they are obliged to work for their Masters, one Day in a Week, *gratis*: But whether this Priviledge belongs only to the *Padres*, or to the Laity also, I know not. The *Indians* inhabiting these Villages, live like Gentlemen in Comparison

of those that are near any great Town, such as *Campeachy* or *Merida*: for there even the poorer and rascally Sort of People, that are not able to hire one of these poor Creatures, will by violence drag them to do their drudgery for nothing, after they have work'd all Day for their Masters: nay, they often take them out of the Market from their Business; or at least enjoin them to come to their Houses when their Market is ended: and they dare not refuse to do it.

This Country is very fruitful; yielding plentiful Crops of Maiz, which is their chiefest Subsistence. After it is boiled they bruise it on such a Rubbing-Stone as Chocolate is ground on. Some of it they make into small thin Cakes, called *Tartiloes*. The rest is put into a Jar till it grows sour; and when they are thirsty, mix a handful of it in a Callabash of Water, which gives it a sharp pleasant Taste, then straining it through a large Callabash prick'd full of small Holes to keep out the Husks, they drink it off. If they treat a Friend with this Drink, they mix a little Honey with it; for their Ability reaches no higher: And this is as acceptable to them as a Glass of Wine to us. If they travel for two or three Days from home, they carry some of this ground Maiz in a Plantain Leaf, and Callabash at their Girdles to make their Drink, and take no farther care for Victuals, till they come home again. This is called *Pesle*: And by the *English Poor-soul*. It is so much esteemed by the *Indians*, that they are never without some of it in their Houses.

Another Way of preparing their Drink, is to parch the Maiz, and then grind it to Powder on the Rubbing-stone, putting a little *Anatta* to it; which grows in their Plantations, and is used by them for no other purpose. They mix it all

An. 1676. with Water, and presently drink it off without straining.

In long Journeys they prefer this drink before Posole.

They feed abundance of Turkies, Ducks and Dunghill Fowls, of which the Padre has an exact Account; and is very strict in gathering his Tithe: and they dare not kill any except they have his Leave for it.

They plant Cotton also for their Cloathing. The Men wear only a short Jacket and Breeches. These with a Palmeto-Leaf Hat is their *Sundays* Dress; for they have neither Stockings nor Shoes; neither do they wear these Jackets on Week Days. The Women have a Cotton-Petticoat, and a large Frock down to their Knees; the Sleeves to their Wrists, but not gathered. The Bosom is open to the Breast, and Imbroidered with black or red Silk, or Grogram Yarn, two Inches broad on each side the Breast, and clear round the Neck. In this Garb, with their Hair ty'd up in a Knot behind, they think themselves extreme fine.

The Men are obliged by the Padres (as I have been informed) to marry when they are Fourteen Years old, and the Women when Twelve: And if at that Age they are not provided, the Priest will chuse a Virgin for the Man (or a Man for the Virgin) of equal Birth and Fortune; and join them together.

The *Spaniards* give several Reasons for this Imposition, *viz.* That it preserves them from Debauchery, and makes them Industrious. ----- That it brings them to pay Taxes both to the King and Church; for as soon as they are married they pay to both. ----- And that it keeps them from rambling out of their own Parish, and settling in another, which would by so much lessen the Padre's Profit.

Profit. They love each other very well ; and live comfortably by the Sweat of their Brows : They build good large Houses, and inhabit altogether in Towns. The side Walls are Mud or Watling, plaister'd on the Inside, and thatch'd with Palm or Palmeto Leaves. An. 1676.

The Churches are large, built much higher than the Common Houses, and covered with Pantile ; and within adorned with coarse Pictures and Images of Saints ; which are all painted tawny like the *Indians* themselves. Besides these Ornaments ; there are kept in the Churches Pipes, Hautboys, Drums, Vizars and Perruques for their Recreation at solemn Times ; for they have little or no Sport or Pastime but in common, and that only upon Saints Days, and the Nights ensuing.

The Padres that serve here, must learn the *Indian* Language before they can have a Benefice. As for their Tithes and other Incomes, Mr. Gage, (an *Englisbman*) hath given a large Account of them in his *Survey of the West-Indies*. But however, this I will add of my own Knowledge, that they are very dutiful to their Priests, observing punctually their Orders, and behave themselves very circumspectly and reverently in their Presence.

They are generally well-shaped, of a middle Size ; streight and clean Limbed. The Men more spare, the Women plump and fat, their Faces are round and flat, their Foreheads low, their Eyes little, their Noses of a middle Size, somewhat flattish ; full Lips ; pretty full but little Mouths ; white Teeth, and their Colour of a dark tawny, like other *Indians*. They sleep in Hammocks made with small Cords like a Net, fastned at each End to a Post. Their Furniture is but mean, viz. Earthen Pots to boil their Maiz in, and abundance of Callabashes. They are a very harmless Sort of People ; kind to

Spaniards Tyranny over the Indians.

An. 1676. any Strangers; and even to the *Spaniards*, by whom they are so much kept under, that they are worse than Slaves: nay, the very Negroes will domineer over them; and are countenanced to do so by the *Spaniards*. This makes them very melancholly and thoughtful: however they are very quiet, and seem contented with their Condition, if they can tolerably subsist: But sometimes when they are imposed on beyond their Ability, they will march off whole Towns, Men, Women and Children together, as is before related.



C H A P. VI.

The River of Checapeque. The River of Dos Bocas. The Towns up the Country. Halpo. Their Trade. Old Hats, a good Commodity. A sad Accident in Hunting. Tondelo River. Musketoos troublesom on this Coast. Guasick-walp River. Teguantapeque River. Few Gold Mines on all this part of the Sea-coast. Teguantapeque Town. Keyhoooca and its Cacao-Trade. Vincellos. Alvarado River, and its Branches. Its Forts, Town and Trade. Cod-Pepper. La Vera Cruz. The Fort of St. John d'Ulloa. The Barra la Venta Fleet; and their Navigation about the West-India Coast. The Town of Tipso. Paunuk River and Town. Lagune and Town of Tompeque. Huniago Island. Its Trade in Shrimps. The Author's return to Logwood-cutting at Trist. Captain Gibbs killed there by some Indians he brought from New-England. The Author's setting out to Jamaica and return for England.

HAVING given the Reader an Account of the *An. 1676.*
Indians inhabiting about the River of *Tobasco*;
 I come next to describe the Western-Coast of
 this Bay, with its Rivers and other most re-
 markable Particulars. From *Tobasco* River to the

Chcapeque River.

An. 1676. River *Chcapeque* is seven Leagues. The Coast lies East and West; all woody low Ground, sandy Bay, and good Anchoring; but there falls in a pretty high Sea on the shore, therefore but bad landing; yet Canoas may with care run in, if the Men are ready to leap out, as soon as she touches the Ground; and then she must immediately be dragg'd up out of the Surf. And the same caution and dexterity is to be used when they go off again. There is no fresh Water between *Tobasco* River and *Chcapeque*. This latter is rather a salt Creek than a River; for the Mouth of it is not above 20 Paces wide, and about 8 or 9 Foot Water on the Bar; but within there is 12 or 13 Foot at low Water, and good riding for Barks, half a Mile within the Mouth.

This Creek runs in E. S. E. about two Miles, and then strikes away South up into the Country. At its Mouth between it and the Sea is a bare sandy Point of Land: Where on the side next the River, close by the Brink of it (and no where else) you may scrape up the Sand (which is coarse and brown) with your Hands, and get fresh Water; but if you dig lower the Water will be salt. Half a Mile within the Mouth, when you are past the sandy Point, the Land is wet and swampy, bearing only Mangroves on each side for four or five Leagues up; and after that firm Land; where you will find a run of fresh Water, it being all Salt till you come hither. A League beyond that is a Beef Estantion or Farm of Cattle, belonging to an *Indian* Village. In the Woods on each side this River there are plenty of Guanoes, Land Turtle, and abundance of Quams and Correfos, with some Parrots; and there is no Settlement nearer than the Beef Estantion: nor any Thing else remarkable in this River that I know.

A League West from *Chcapeque* there is another small River called *Dos Bocas*, 'tis only fit for Canoes

noas

An. 1676.

noas to enter : It has a Bar at its Mouth, and therefore is somewhat dangerous. Yet the Privateers make light of it ; for they will govern a Canoa very ingeniously. However Captain *Rives* and Captain *Hewet*, two Privateers, lost several Men here in coming out ; for there had been a North, which had raised the Bar, and in going out most of their Canoes were overset, and some Men drowned.

This River will not float a Canoa above a League within its Mouth, and so far is Salt : but there you meet with a fine clear Stream of fresh Water, about a League up in the Country : and beyond this are fair Savannahs of long Grass, fenced in with Ridges of as rich Land as any in the World. The Mold such as is formerly described, all plain and level, even to the Hills of *Chiapo*.

There are no *Indian* Towns within four or five Leagues of the Sea ; but further off they are pretty thick ; lying within a League, two or three one after another : *Halpo* is the chiefest.

The *Indians* make use of no more Land than serves to maintain their Families in Maiz ; and to pay their Taxes : And therefore between the Towns it lies uncultivated.

In all this Country they rear abundance of Poultry, viz. Turkeys, Ducks and Dunghil Fowls, but some of them have Cacao-Walks. The Cacao of these Parts is most of it sent to *Villa de Mose*, and ship'd off there. Some of it is sold to Carriers that travel with Mules, coming hither commonly in *November* or *December*, and staying till *February* or *March*. They lye a Fortnight at a time in a Village to dispose of their Goods ; which are commonly Hatchets, Macheats, Axes, Hoes, Knives, Cizars, Needles, Thread, Silk for sowing, Women's Frocks, small Looking-glasses, Beads, Silver or Copper-Rings wash'd with Gold, set with Glass instead of Stones, small Pictures of Saints, and such like Toys

An. 1676 for the *Indians*. And for the *Spaniards*, Linnen and Woollen Cloaths, Silk-Stockings, and old Hats new dress'd, which are here very valuable, and worn by those of the best Quality ; so that an old *English* Beaver thus ordered, would be worth 20 Dollars ; so much is Trade wanted here in this Country. When he has sold off his Goods, he is generally paid in *Cacao*, which he carries to *La Vera Cruz*.

From *Dos Bocas* to the Rivers *Palmas* is four Leagues low Land and sandy Bay between.

From *Palmas* to the *Halover* is two Leagues.

The *Halover* is a small Neck of Land, parting the Sea from a large Lagune. It is so called by the Privateers, because they use to drag their Canoas in and out there.

From the *Halover* to *St. Anns* is six Leagues.

St. Anns is a Mouth that opens the Lagune before-mention'd : there is not above six or seven Foot Water, yet Barks often go in there to *Careen*.

From *St. Anns* to *Tondelo* is five Leagues. The Coast still West ; the Land low, and sandy Bay against the Sea : a little within which are pretty high Sand-Banks, cloathed with prickly-Bushes, such as I have already described at *Beef-Island*.

Against the Sea near the West-end, within the Sand-Bank, the Land is lower again ; the Woods not very high, and some spots of *Savannahs*, with plenty of fat *Bullocks* ; In hunting of which a *Frenchman* unhappily lost his Life. For his Company being stragled from him to find Game, he unluckily met a Drove of Cattle flying from them in the Woods, which were so thick that there was no passing but in these very narrow Paths that the Cattle themselves had made ; so that not being able to get out of their way, the foremost of the Drove, thrust his Horns into his Back and carried him 100 Paces into the *Savannah*, where he fell down with his Guts trailing on the Ground.

The